

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

HA-05 IO-14 AID-05 MCT-02 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3514

UNCLAS ASUNCION 2891

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PA

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LAINO CASE

REF: ASUNCION 2861

1. A PANEL OF FIVE DOCTORS, INCLUDING ONE APPOINTED BY HIS FAMILY, EXAMINED OPPOSITION LEADER DOMINGO LAINO JULY 14 MORNING. THE FAMILY DOCTOR, DR. JUAN NETTO, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OTHER THAN MARKS LEFT BY HANDCUFFS. MRS. LAINO VISITED HER HUSBAND AFTERNOON JULY 15. SHE LATER ISSUED A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS OUTLINING WHAT HER HUSBAND HAD TOLD HER ABOUT HIS TREATMENT WHILE IN INVESTIAGIONS POLICE CUSTODY. LAINO CLAIMED THAT HE WAS HANDCUFFED TO A POLE FACING A WALL NEAR THE POLICE MESS FOR 60 HOURS. THEY GAVE HIM NOTHING TO EAT FOR 72 HOURS AND ONLY ALLOWED HIM TO LOOK AWAY FROM THE WALL WHEN HE COULD SEE PEOPLE EATING. THE STATEMENT ALSO CLAIMED THAT HE WAS SUBJECTED TO VERBAL THREATS AND ABUSE DURING THIS TIME. MRS. LAINO WITH THEIR CHILDREN VISITED HER HUSBAND TWICE ON JULY 16.

2. "HOY" JULY 16 PUBLISHED INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE POLICE CHARGE SHEET AGAINST LAINO SENT TO JUDGE ANTONIO ESCOBAR CANTERO JULY 13. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS REPORT, UNCLASSIFIED

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LAINO IS CHARGED WITH CONNECTIONS TO ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES, PARTICULARLY A MARIE LOUISE GREENBURG OR MARY LOU GREENBURG OR MARY LOU MACKINLEY OR LOU MARIE GREISGARBER WHO HAD BEGUN ARRANGEMENTS FOR A WOLA INVITATION TO LAINO TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN 1976. (WE ASSUME THE REFERENCE IS TO JO MARIE GRIESGRABER, WOLA REPRESENTATIVE WHO VISITED PARAGUAY IN AUGUST 1977.) THE CHARGE SHEET CONTINUES

THAT ACCORDING TO U.S. SENATE DOCUMENTS, MARIE LOUISE GREENBERG WAS CITED AS A MEMBER OF A PROSCRIBED ORGANIZATION CALLED THE REVOLUTIONARY UNION WHICH CARRIED ON MAOISTIC PROPAGANDA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THE POLICE REPORT ALSO CHARGES LAINO WITH BEING IN TOUCH WITH "WELL-KNOWN MARXIST" MRS. MALENA ASHWELL DE RODRIGUEZ WITH WHOM HE WAS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WHILE IN WASHINGTON. (MRS. RODRIGUEZ WAS CITED AS THE SOURCE OF TWO JACK ANDERSON ANTI-STROESSNER ARTICLES IN DECEMBER/JANUARY WASHINGTON POST). LAINO IS ALSO ACCUSED OF TRAVELING OUTSIDE PARAGUAY WHILE A JUDICIAL PROCEEDING WAS PENDING AGAINST HIM, FOR TRAVELING SEVERAL YEARS AGO THE CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EAST GERMANY AND POLAND AND FOR BEING FRIENDS WITH JUAN FELIX BOGADO GONDRA,/ THE MAIN PRISONER IN LAST JULY'S ROUND-UP OF INTELLECTUALS.

3. THE ASUNCION PRESS HAS CARRIED IN FULL THE STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT, SENATOR KENNEDY, REPRESENTATIVE FRASER AND THE COUNCIL ON HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS REGARDING THE LAINO CASE. THE INCREASING NUMBER OF STATEMENTS CRITICISING PARAGUAY FOR ITS ACTIONS HAS LED THE COLORADO PARTY'S "PATRIA" TO COMPLAIN EDITORIALY JULY 17. THE EDITORIAL PROTESTS THAT THE U.S. HAS MANY WAYS TO PUBLICIZE ITS MISTAKEN VIEWS IN THIS MATTER, BUT, LIKE DAVID AND GOLIATH, LITTLE PARAGUAY WILL BE VICTORIOUS BECAUSE ITS CAUSE IS "JUST".

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